

RESOLUTION 6-5-09

Resolution Opposing Proposed Reduction in Delinquent Property Tax Interest Rate

WHEREAS, the 2009 Assembly Bill 149 would temporarily reduce the interest rate on delinquent general property taxes from 1% to .5% per month from the time the bill would be enacted until December 31, 2010; and

WHEREAS, if the proposed change had been in effect for 2008, Green County would have lost \$87,949.18 in revenue; and

WHEREAS, the term "interest" is actually a penalty imposed for people who do not obey the law and do not pay their property taxes, similar to State penalties for non payment of State income tax, interest is in lieu of sending people to court or jail for violating the law; and

WHEREAS, it seems inequitable to lower the interest rate for delinquent property taxpayers, and leave the penalty for nonpayment of State Income and Sales tax untouched; and

WHEREAS, Green County works with their taxpayers through allowing monthly payments in which the majority of taxpayers pay their taxes prior to foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, the additional costs and reduction in revenue that will result if this proposal is adopted could only be offset by a reduction in county services or and increase in property taxes to those taxpayers that pay taxes timely, or both; and

WHEREAS, revenue generated from the interest of collected delinquent property taxes works to offset the cost of courtesy letters, notices and publications that are all a part of the collection process mandated by State Statute; and

WHEREAS, the counties still continue settling full for the levies of all taxing jurisdictions regardless of the amount of taxes collected; and

WHEREAS, a temporary reduction in the interest rate charge on delinquent taxes is not a solution that will provide meaningful long-term relief to the vast majority of taxpayers and will create confusion when the original interest rate is reinstated;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Green County Board of Supervisors hereby opposes any Legislative proposal to reduce the interest rate charged on delinquent property taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forward by the County Clerk to Governor Doyle and Green County's State Senator Jon Erpenbach and State Assemblyperson Brett Davis.

SIGNED: THE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE:

Harvey Mandel, Chair

Sue Disch, Vice-Chair

Arthur Carter

Al Benzschawel

Dennis Everson

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Fiscal Note: Potential decrease in interest received from county's delinquent property taxes. MJD

Legal Note: Approved as to form. BDB

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
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COUNTY OF GREEN)

I, Michael J. Doyle, County Clerk in and for said County, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution 6-5-09, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 9, 2009.

Dated at Monroe, Wisconsin, this 9th day of June, 2009.

Michael J. Doyle
Green County Clerk